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Fordyce, David

THE

TEMPLE OF VIRTUE, A DREAM.

PUBLISHED BY

JAMES FORDYCE, D. D.

THE SECOND EDITION.

IN A DREAM, IN A VISION OF THE NIGHT, WHEN DEEP SLEEP FALLETH UPON MEN, IN SLUMBERINGS UPON THE BED; THEN HE OPENETH THE EARS OF MEN, AND SEALETH THEIR INSTRUCTION.

ELIHU.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR T. CADELL IN THE STRAND.
MDCCLXXV.

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TO

PHILIP AND RICHARD HOLLINGWORTH ESQRS.

AS AFFECTIONATE VOTARIES OF VIRTUE

THIS PICTURE OF HER TEMPLE

IS INSCRIBED

BY

THEIR FAITHFUL FRIEND

THE EDITOR.

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Bates
Pickering
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PREFACE

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

OF this little piece, which has been ſeveral years out of print, the publiſher was willing to ſupply a new edition, for the uſe of numbers who have expreſſed a wiſh to ſee it; incited, as he hopes, by the favourable report of ſome who have peruſed it with indulgence on account of its deſign.

The thing itſelf is certainly not of conſequence ſufficient to give it extenſive currency. The ſubject indeed would recommend it to thoſe readers, who are lovers of VIRTUE: but they, it is to be feared, are not the many; and even of them how ſmall a part have probably ever heard its name? Such as have may be

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induced, by the title, to look into a production that professes to set before them an object, of which the bare mention cannot but impress them with respect. If, on a nearer view, they should find in it aught to engage attention, or gratify sensibility, they may possibly be prompted to speak of it with kindness to their friends, to those younger persons in particular whose improvement they would not be less happy than the editor to promote.

While the partisans of VICE, under the mask of PLEASURE, are employing every art to ensnare our youth of both sexes, the votaries of VIRTUE will naturally be zealous to put them on their guard, and guide them to her Temple, as the only abode of *genuine* Felicity: nor will such travellers, perhaps, be less pleased with the path, that it presents some entertainment, for the sake of uniting the allurements of the imagination with the convictions of the heart, and

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flowing that Goodneſs is not more neceſſary, or more venerable, than lovely and delightful.

The ſentiments, deſcriptions, and characters in general, are left as they were in the former edition; but conſiderable pains have been taken to render the ſtyle leſs incorrect.

A particular friend of the publiſher, being made acquainted with the deſign of reprinting this ſmall work, ſeemed very ſolicitous that ſo amiable a character, as that of the Firſt Female in Britain, might have a place in the new edition. He was told, that the Dream having been publiſhed many years ago, when that Lady was not known, the editor had no right to add to the original manuſcript from which it was taken. He ſmiled at the objection, as proceeding on too nice a refinement; and replied, that, if the picture were found like, the anachroniſm would eaſily be for-

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given; that few readers would ever think of it; and that such excellence on a Throne was too uncommon, not to merit being pointed out, among the distinguished votarists of VIRTUE.

This last remark impressed the publisher so deeply, that he could not help wishing the visions of the night would be auspicious enough to correspond with the desire of a friend for whose judgment he has much respect, and to whose attachment he owes many obligations. Thus disposed he fell asleep; when Fancy, presenting the Temple, the GODDESS, her Attendants, and the Assembly, as described in the following sheets, selected the instant at which the venerable Doctor Herring had received his award, to call up the lovely image of the admired Princess now mentioned.

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INTRODUCTION.

IT is ſome time ſince I was intruſted by my Lord **** with the tuition of his eldeſt ſon. My firſt care was to find out his temper and genius. I ſoon diſcovered him to be a youth of lively parts, warm imagination, and particularly fond of ſuch books as addreſs themſelves more immediately to that faculty. Fables, allegories, tales, romances, novels, and the ſprightlier kinds of poetry, were his principal delight. He had always been indulged in this ſpecies of reading, and ſeemed to have very little reliſh for compoſitions of a different ſtrain. To the ſober and ſevere productions of philoſophy he had even a diſlike; and the precepts of morality he could not endure, unleſs they were conveyed in ſome agreeable vehicle borrowed from the ſtores of fancy.

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The dominion, which that pleasing but volatile power possessed over him, from his original turn of mind, was confirmed by the cast of his favourite authors. These, by falling in so strongly with the bias of his nature, at that early season, had concurred to produce a light and airy disposition, which I easily foresaw would be no friend to solid and serious improvements. What was yet worse, the greater part of them, instead of making him in love with Virtue, by displaying her superior attractions, had seduced him into the admiration of her rival Pleasure; whom, by a shameful perversion of their art, they have dressed in her most alluring ornaments. This they had done the more effectually, as his passions, it was easy to observe, were ardent and impetuous. Unhappily too for him, his parents, who ought to have opposed and controuled them, had by a cruel indulgence, much too common, added greatly to their force.

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Such diſcoveries were, it may be imagined, not the moſt encouraging. In truth, they gave me inexpreſſible anxiety; which was increaſed by the duty I owed to the noble family, who honoured me with ſo high a mark of their confidence; by the friendſhip I conceived for my young charge, who, with an open and ingenuous aſpect, had an uncommon fund of good nature and an engaging vivacity of wit; and by frequent reflections on the importance of my truſt to the intereſts of ſociety, which would probably ſome day be not a little affected by his principles and behaviour. In theſe circumſtances what was to be done?

So gay a ſpirit would at once have revolted againſt grave advice, however kindly offered. Dry argumentation, with whatever fairneſs conducted, would have been equally diſagreeable to a mind unaccuſtomed to argue. Airs of authority

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would have proved yet more diſguſtful to a youth ſo indulged. How then were we in this caſe to correct the irregularities, and reſtrain the exceſſes, of a ſanguine imagination; or by what means could we hope to moderate thoſe inclinations, which had gathered ſtrength from every quarter?

The only method that ſeemed left, was to turn them as it were againſt themſelves, by leading this youth to Virtue in the road of Entertainment; to inſinuate a taſte for learning, and the love of goodneſs, by exhibiting thoſe reſpectable forms in ſights the moſt familiar and attractive; in ſhort, by arraying Wiſdom in the robes of Fancy, and ſhowing her in all her ſweeteſt ſmiles, to intereſt his ſenſibility and captivate his heart, and thus to render that very faculty, which till now had been a handmaid of Folly, miniſterial to her divine Antagoniſt. On this plan therefore I reſolved to proceed.

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The more powerfully to conciliate my pupil's regard, I joined to every other honeſt art, that of expreſſing, what indeed I had always felt, a particular eſteem for the moſt celebrated works of imagination. I deſired him to favour me with a ſight of his books in that ſtyle, teſtifying a wiſh to peruſe them, and naming ſuch as I knew to be moſt inſtructive and moral, that I might afterwards commend them to him with the greater freedom. I put into his hands ſome others of the ſame character, which he had not yet ſeen. I would frequently make him read to me ſelect paſſages out of them, when I never failed to ſignify the ſatisfaction they gave me. I would ſometimes read to him in my turn, and with that kind of emphaſis and manner, which ſeemed both to ſurpriſe and delight him. By entering ſo deeply into his darling amuſement, I ſoon gained his affection; and I could often, while we were thus employed, perceive his face to flush with a mixture of gratitude and joy.

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He had learned Latin, Greek, and French, in a neighbouring school, the master of which informed me, that, notwithstanding his quickness of apprehension, he had found it very difficult to teach him those languages, on account of a certain giddy disposition, which rendered him peculiarly backward to a study so laborious and unengaging. That he might be induced to resume it with less reluctance, I assured him he would receive from many of the writers in these tongues endless entertainment of the highest kind, which he could never enjoy in the same perfection from the best translations; and I promised to assist him in reading the most amusing works of genius both ancient and modern.

We went to work accordingly; and by explaining to him difficulties, illustrating beauties, frequently varying the subjects, always intermixing such stories and observations as appeared most likely to amuse

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or affect him, and ſtill ſhowing a proper attention to his queſtions and remarks, which were often pertinent and ſprightly, I had the pleaſure of ſeeing him contract inſenſibly a liking to the languages, and a reliſh for ſtudy.

Encouraged by this ſucceſs, I now ventured to blend with our gayer authors ſome of a graver vein, who, at the ſame time that they excelled in the powers of imagination, abounded in the nobleſt views of life and nature, and availed themſelves of the former to ſet off the laſt with advantage. In going through them with my young friend, I was ſure to mark with approbation the beauty and force of the ſtyle; the brightneſs and elevation of the ideas; the novelty, the grace, or the grandeur, of the imagery. When he appeared delighted with any of theſe, I ſeized that opportunity to point out more ſtrongly the ſublime and ſtriking leſſons of truth, of piety, of juſtice, of generoſity,

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of self-command, and public zeal, which they were designed to inculcate. I endeavoured to make him sensible, that Fancy in those writers was under the controul of Judgment, the superior faculty originally ordained to govern, and without whose direction the other would have served only to mislead them; that the natural and moral paintings for which they were admired had all an important signification; that the proportions of the several figures were generally as just, as the colouring was agreeable; that it was the chasteness, the simplicity, the unaffected greatness of such productions, with their application to characters and manners, which gave them their highest value, and procured to their authors distinguished honour from the best judges.

I farther shewed him how the Muses were, from the earliest ages, professedly consecrated to the service of religion and

society, although they have been since too often sacrilegiously alienated from this their noblest destination; how they were actually employed to enlighten an ignorant and civilize a savage race, to enforce and elevate devotion, to inspire and strengthen a reverence for the laws, an affection for the community, a principle of obedience to parents and governors, a sense of whatever is decent, excellent, or heroic, and an emulation of virtuous fame; how they performed all this by celebrating the praises of the Divinity, by rehearsing the atchievements of divine and illustrious men, and by representing in animated pictures whatever is praise-worthy in sentiments and actions, with all that is happy and glorious in their effects; and how, on the other hand, they helped to restrain the wildness, and reduce the wanderings, of the passions, by displaying in the most moving examples the violent convulsions, the horrible outrages, the unnatural guilt;

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the complicated and countleſs miſeries, which thoſe have produced among the different ranks, and through the ſucceſſive generations, of mankind.

When I obſerved my pupil beginning to enter into theſe views, and to form of courſe a more exalted idea of thoſe writings which he had heretofore regarded only in the light of entertainment; I proceeded to make him acquainted with ſome of the moſt valuable works of the Hiſtorical kind, ſuch as contain a ſpirited and ſuccinct account of thoſe periods, which have been famous for the moſt remarkable perſonages and events. Theſe not only engaged his attention, and gratified his thirſt of novelty, but tended to confirm in ſome degree the reflections I had made from the Poets; at the ſame time that they ſerved to inſtruct him in the condition of human life, by letting him ſee from indubitable facts, that though piety and irreligion, temperance

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and luxury, integrity and villainy, Virtue and Vice, in general, are frequently followed, in the present state, with the consequences which these writers award to them, according to the laws of poetic justice, they are yet far from being uniformly so; and that, how much soever a worthy character is constantly preferable to the reverse on all other accounts, it is still true that in this world the best men have often the most afflicted lot, and the worst the most triumphant. A discovery which seemed to fill him with astonishment and horrour, to remove a part of that delusive glare with which the continual sight of opulence and greatness, joined to the prospect of future wealth and distinction, had dazzled him, and consequently to lower his lofty hopes of happiness from things external.

Of this occasion I laid hold to set forth the superiority, and necessity, of those internal goods, which are independ-

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ent on the caprices of men, and the caſualties of life; and which are many times enjoyed moſt, when other poſſeſſions are at the loweſt ebb. An enlightened underſtanding, a correct imagination, and moderate paſſions; intentions univerſally upright, purſued with vigour, with temper, and perſeverance; a ſpirit ſtreſt and firm, unawed by power, unſeduced by pleaſure, and unſubdued by pain, yet traſtable and mild, awake to the finer feelings of humanity, and open to conviction; with loyalty and attachment to a man's prince and country, warmth and fidelity to his friends, a generous pity, and forgiveneſs of his enemies; and, to crown all the reſt, an unreſerved devotedneſs to GOD; theſe, I told him, theſe were the only ſatisfying and abiding acquiſitions, which rendered a perſon contented and eſtimable in every ſtate, even in the depth of diſgrace and poverty; as, on the contrary, no poſſible affluence or titles could reſcue, from contempt and

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wretchedness, a wicked or a foolish creature.

At present I did little more, indeed, than hint at such subjects, and others connected with them; as, the advantages for attaining this exalted station which are derived from Divine Philosophy, more especially that of JESUS, and particularly those superior aids and elevating prospects, which that sovereign Master holds out to his disciples. Of these points it seemed proper to delay a larger explanation till afterwards, when my pupil's capacity should be more proportioned to them, and the effervescence of juvenile fancy should give place to the coolness of maturer judgment.

But that the whole might leave, in the mean time, some sensible impression, I here assumed a countenance more serious than usual, took him by the hand, and addressing him with a voice and air both

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affectionate and solemn, I said, "My "deareſt youth, you know my zeal for "your welfare. To thoſe good qualities, "which I diſcerned in you from the firſt, "I was not indifferent. I am now much "more attached to you, on account of "your daily advances in Virtue and "Learning. I wiſh to behold you at "laſt an accompliſhed, a worthy, and "an illuſtrious man. I wiſh it for your "own ſake, for that of your honoured "parents, and for the ſake of your "country. Nor am I without hopes of "enjoying this felicity." I paused. He melted into tears, ſtole a look of grateful reſpect, and then caſt down his eyes, as overwhelmed with the ſenſibility of a mind that panted for excellence, but felt its own defects. I embraced him and proceeded; "Yes, my friend, your beſt "intereſts are dear to me, and your "growing improvements give me de- "light. Your modeſty and diffidence "are graceful. You have, indeed, much

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" to acquire. You are, in comparison,
" but beginning the glorious career of
" goodneſs, and of knowledge. On
" yourſelf, next to Heaven, it will
" depend, what progreſs you ſhall make
" hereafter; and on that again will
" depend your happineſs and your conſe-
" quence in life. You are born to an
" ample fortune, and conſiderable ho-
" nours: but remember, it is the more
" reſpectable qualifications of the mind,
" and of the heart, that muſt render
" the others, when you arrive at them,
" ſources of true enjoyment and dignity.
" It is you muſt adorn your rank, inſtead
" of being adorned by it. High birth,
" with low paſſions and mean talents,
" ſerves only to make a man more conſpi-
" cuouſly little; and great affluence
" hoarded with avarice, or diſſipated
" with profuſion, is at beſt but gilded
" miſery: whereas by poſſeſſing a noble
" ſoul, indulging a virtuous munificence,
" deſpiſing the poorneſs of ſenſual pur-

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" fuits, and abhorring the baſeneſs of
" every diſhoneſt practice; by a beha-
" viour at once pious, unaſſuming,
" manly; and the perſevering ſtudy of
" polite and ſolid literature; you will
" juſtly become the darling, as you are
" already the hope, of your family: your
" friends will both love and revere you:
" your acquaintances will ſay to each
" other, If that young man lives, he will
" be an ornament and a bleſſing to his
" relations, to Britain, to mankind:
" every elegant as well as rational enter-
" tainment will attend you, and yield
" the higheſt reliſh, by being ſeaſoned
" with health and innocence: you will
" be a favourite of the Muſes: Philo-
" ſophy herſelf will light you in the
" way to preſent pleaſure; and the great
" Reſtorer, Lover, and Guardian of
" human kind, will conduct you to
" immortality."

Some time after this, as we ſat one evening in the long gallery where we com-

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monly chose to study, which looked into a garden, and commanded at some distance the view of meadows, hills, and villages, with a pastoral river winding through them. The weather being remarkably fine, we opened the nearest window, to enjoy the fresh air and the various prospect. It was now early summer. Nature appeared in her highest bloom, and greatest benignity: she was all sweetness and splendour. Her unnumbered offspring shared her bounty in forms infinitely diversified. Her vocal children shouted for joy. Was it possible to behold her, and her happy family, unaffected, undelighted; or listen to her little choristers, who seemed to contend with one another in carolling her praise, and not be prompted to join in the general hymn? I could not resist so pleasing an impulse; but after a pause of contemplative rapture, rising up I recited with warmth some beautiful descriptions of the season, which I recollected from different poets. The fancy of my youthful friend immediately took fire; and with a charm-

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ing enthusiasm he echoed them in similar descriptions. Willing to cherish so fine a flame, I added a few passages more of the same kind. At last expressing my esteem for the singularly picturesque and moral genius of *Thomson*, I repeated from his *Summer* the following lines:

Thick, in yon stream of light, a thousand ways,
Upward and downward, thwarting and con-
volv'd,
The quivering nations sport; till, tempest-
wing'd,
Fierce Winter sweeps them from the face of day.
Even so luxurious men, unheeding pass
An idle summer's life in fortune's shine,
A season's glitter! Thus they flutter on
From toy to toy, from vanity to vice;
Till blown away by death, oblivion comes
Behind, and strikes them from the book of life.

Here I was led to regret in general the folly and wretchedness of those who, relinquishing the peaceful and pleasant path of Virtue, wander into the by-ways of Forbidden Pleasure, where all is un-

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satisfying and tumultuous, and where a transient gleam of gratifications at best trifling, is followed by a long winter of solid misery.

As the security of my noble charge was inseparably connected with a deep persuasion of this point, I thought the present no improper opportunity to enforce it. And that I might render the subject more agreeable, by embellishing it with the colours of Fancy, which never failed to delight him, I stepped to one of the book-cases, and taking down the second volume of DIALOGUES ON EDUCATION, read to him from the Sixteenth Dialogue, a Dream concerning PLEASURE, in which, under a great variety of imagery and characters, drawn from the poetic and from the living worlds, are shadowed out, after the manner of some ancient moralists, the accursed arts of that Enchantress, in deluding, disappointing, and destroying unwary mortals.

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My pupil appeared very ſenſibly affected. He often changed colour in the progreſs of the narrative. His countenance, which was naturally expreſſive, ſometimes lowered with indignation at the ſtrong pictures he there ſaw exhibited of vice and villainy, ſometimes brightened into approbation of the juſt awards he found adjudged to the guilty, and at other times ſmiled with contempt of the foppery and futility, which are expoſed in ſome of the ideal perſonages. So much did the whole viſionary ſcene engage him, that he hung upon my words with eager ſuſpence to the concluſion. He then ſeemed loſt in thought; from which he no ſooner recovered himſelf, than he exclaimed, "What pity the "author ſhould have ended ſo ſoon! Or "has he made amends, by communica-"ting more ſuch viſions elſewhere?" Obſerving me ſilent, he added, "Is not "Virtue uſually ſpoken of by the poets as "a real perſon? Why did not this

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" writer publiſh ſomething in the ſame " way concerning Virtue? It muſt have " been equally inſtructive, and more " delightful."

The thought was not unreaſonable. I reflected on it at parting, retired into the garden, and there revolved all that had paſſed. This, with the beauty of ſurrounding Nature, the ſerenity and ſtillneſs of approaching night, and a ſtate of mind equally undiſturbed, concurred to produce the happieſt flow of ideas I had ever experienced. Imagination ſtretched her pinions, as if meditating a higher flight: ſome friendly ſpirit ſeemed to whiſper ſublimer things: my breaſt heaved with the force of thoſe conceptions which now poſſeſſed it. In this ſituation I ſtrayed inſenſibly into an adjoining ſummer-houſe, where, throwing myſelf down upon a couch, I unexpectedly fell aſleep, and was favoured with the following Dream; which, when

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I awaked, and recollected it, I thought might be of uſe to confirm my pupil in the love of Virtue. As it was long, I wrote it down, and ſome days after read it to him in our favourite gallery.

TEMPLE OF VIRTUE.

I FANCIED that I was ſuddenly tranſported into the Palace of PLEASURE, which I had ſeen deſcribed the evening before, where, notwithſtanding the magnificence of the manſion, and the ſpeciouſneſs of the Goddeſs, that ſtruck at firſt ſight, I diſcovered, on a cloſer ſurvey, ſuch an air of affectation and deceit in both, with ſuch a look of real diſtreſs in many of her votaries, ill concealed under artificial ſmiles, as, joined to the impreſſions remaining on me from my waking thoughts, ſoon convinced me, that the whole was a pernicious contrivance to

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ſeduce and ruin unhappy men: on which I broke away with diſdain and horrour, and made all the haſte in my power from the enchanted valley where the Palace ſtood. When I had reached what I judged a ſafe diſtance, I began to lament in my own mind the miſery of ſuch as are taken in the ſnares of that wicked Sorcereſs.

Here I was met by the good Old Man of whom I had read but a few hours before, whom I recognized by his employment of giving directions to young travellers, and who, I could readily remember, was called THE GENIUS OF EDUCATION. Perceiving me in a penſive and melancholy mood, he addreſſed me with much kindneſs, and inquired the cauſe. I told him where I had been, and what I had obſerved, with the ſorrowful reflections I could not forbear to make on the fate of ſo many deluded wretches; and ſubjoined, that being myſelf a youth of little experience, in queſt of HAPPINESS, I

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was uncertain what road to purſue. He looked upon me with generous compaſſion, and deſired me to follow him.

He then conducted me along a winding path up a hill, on the ſummit of which reſided a ſedate and thoughtful man, well advanced in years, who, he informed me, was one of his near relations. We found him lodged in a lofty pavilion, from whence there was a proſpect of the country on every ſide; and he appeared, as we approached, to ſit in a muſing poſture on a chair of poliſhed metal, which diffuſed about him an uncommon luſtre, and reflected ſtrong and full the images of things. Placed before him was a noble teleſcope of exquiſite workmanſhip, by the help of which the moſt diſtant objects might be eaſily and diſtinctly diſcerned.

My Guide acquainted me, that the name of this reſpectable perſonage was CONTEMPLATION; that he was one of

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did eldeſt ſons of *Wiſdom*, and that he was poſted on that hill by the ſovereign of a great adjoining empire, called VIRTUE, to inſtruct thoſe who were travelling towards her Temple. His aſpect was ſolemn, ſerene, and piercing. There was ſomething majeſtic in thoſe wrinkles, with which age and meditation had marked his forehead; and his grey hairs were "a "crown of glory."

As we entered his pavilion, he roſe up with an awful compoſure, and came forward to receive us with remarkable ſublimity in his air and geſture. Struck with reverence, I at firſt beheld him in reſpectful ſilence; but, reaſſured by his encouraging looks, I repreſented to him, that, having been lately in the Palace of the Enchantreſs, PLEASURE, I was ſoon aware of her deſtructive wiles, had ſpeedily made my eſcape, and was now in ſearch of HAPPINESS. The venerable Power replied, that as he was

the professed friend and guardian of youth, he would undertake to direct me, if I was disposed to put myself under his care. Having thankfully accepted his offer, and being warmly recommended to him by my former Guide, he seated me by him, and bad me observe, from the advantageous situation in which I now was, the wide-expanded regions that lay below, and the innumerable multitude of travellers that crossed it in a thousand different roads.

"That large tract," said he, "which "you see towards the left hand, so variegated with hills, and dales, and groves, "and streams, and so thronged with inhabitants and passengers, is the dominion of the Sorceress, VICE; for so she "is properly called, although she boldly "assumes the more honourable appellation "of PLEASURE. In that seemingly delicious valley, which lies in the heart of "the country, you see her Palace, where

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"you lately was. To confirm you in "your opinion of her character, you may "observe," said he, desiring me to look through the telescope, "how some of "those miserable beings, her votaries, "are bewildered in the mazes of the "wood which grows hard by; how "others of them wander up and down "from one bower of her gardens to "another, forlorn and distracted; while "many of them are dragged away to a "dirty cave, concealed from those who "enter her Palace, at the farther end of "a long lane behind it, and called *The "Cave of Poverty:* a horrid place, of "which the mistress sits in gloomy "state, on a large rough stone, clad in "rags, shivering with cold, pining with "hunger, and environed by a set of dis-"mal figures eyeing her and one another "with dejection and amazement. Some "of their names are *Discontent, Lament-"ation, Mean-spiritedness, Flattery, Greedi-"ness, Suspicion, Dishonesty, Despair.*"

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" Not far from thence you may per-
" ceive a ſtrong priſon, which is ſtyled
" *The Houſe of Diſcipline.* It is kept by
" two fierce and frightful figures, called
" *Puniſhment* and *Terrour*, who are fur-
" niſhed with various inſtruments of toil,
" pain, and diſgrace, for the chaſtiſement
" of ſuch malefactors as are delivered into
" their hands.

" But now," proceeded he, " caſt your
" eye again over the country which I
" ſhowed you. It is divided into ſundry
" diſtricts, lying in a circle round the
" Palace of PLEASURE. In their reſpec-
" tive centers ſtand the ſeats of her
" principal miniſters, who are always
" ſubject to her will, ſubſervient to her
" intereſts, and ready to attend her
" court.

" On one ſide," to which he pointed
the glaſs, " you ſee," ſaid he, " the
" Manſion of *Luxury*, magnificent and

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"ſplendid in the extreme, raiſed with a "profuſion of expence, and adorned on "every hand with all the oſtentation of "art." And here he deſired me to mark with particular care an outlet from the gardens, leading directly to *The Cave of Poverty.*

Then turning the teleſcope to another ſide, "Yonder," he continued, "is the "Houſe of *Intemperance.* It reſembles, "as you may obſerve, a great inn, of "which the gate ſtands always open, "and into which crowds are continually "haſtening. You may remark, that "hardly any come out with the ſame "countenance, or ſhape, with which they "entered, but are transformed into the "likeneſs of different beaſts. At a little "diſtance is a large hoſpital, or lazar-"houſe, into which the poor wretches are "thrown from time to time, loaded with "all manner of diſeaſes, and condemned "to ſickneſs, pain, and putrefaction."

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Directing the glaſs another away, he next ſhowed me the Tower of *Ambition*, built on the top of a very high hill. "Thither," ſaid he, "you behold multitudes climbing from different quarters, ſtruggling who ſhall get firſt, and puſhing down thoſe before them. On one ſide is a flowery but dangerous precipice, from which the greater part, after having with infinite toil and contention gained it, tumble headlong into a bottomleſs gulf, and are never heard of more. On the other ſide is a ſecret path, which grows broader by degrees. At the entry to it ſtands a ſmooth and artful villain, called *Corruption*, holding in one hand ribbons, and in the other bags of gold, which, under many a ſpecious pretext, he preſents to travellers, according to their ſeveral taſtes. The path, after winding up the hill, leads down again by a quick deſcent, till it terminates in a dark dungeon, ſtyled *The Dungeon of*

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" *Infamy*. You see what numbers are " drawn into it; and of these not a few, " who not only rejected for a long time " the offers of *Corruption*, but loudly " exclaimed against all that embraced " them."

" The valley below," continued my Instructor, bending down the telescope, " is possessed by *Vanity*, whose district " you may perceive is better peopled than " those of the other followers of PLEA- " SURE, which you have already seen." Into her gaudy dwelling she allures passengers, chiefly by promising to lead them to the Palace of her mistress, through the Temple of *Fame*, which she pretends is just in her neighbourhood, and only to be come at by passing through her mansion, although in reality the right road to it lies through the Temple of VIRTUE, to which it is almost contiguous. Those who are so weak as to be seduced by her are commonly consigned over

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to the scoffs of *Ridicule*, a formidable Power, who wears on his face a perpetual sneer, and who, after treating them with proper marks of scorn, shuts them up in an obscure cell, called *The Cell of Contempt*.

After this CONTEMPLATION pointed out to me, in a remote corner of the country, that had the appearance of being disjoined from all the rest, a Castle, which, he said, was inhabited by an old usurer, named *Avarice*, who sat starving amidst heaps of gold, and who, though in fact a friend to VICE, refused to acknowledge her under the form of PLEASURE, nor would ever come near the court of that jolly GODDESS. "His castle, you "see, is situated in the center of a deep "wood, and defended with high walls "and strong fortifications. That iron "gate, which you descry by the assist-"ance of the glass, is the only entrance. "It is secured within by many strong

"bolts: without ſtand two ſharp-eyed "guards, with viſages emaciated and "keen, called *Hunger* and *Anxiety*, who "ſuffer none to paſs into the caſtle till "they have manifeſted their affection to "the maſter of it, by ſerving a ſufficient "time in an outer yard, where ſome are "digging, ſome hewing ſtones, others "carrying on their ſhoulders heavy bur-"dens, and many filling large chefts "with earth. It is remarkable," added my Inſtructor; "that from the loweſt "cellar of the houſe runs a long ſub-"terraneous paſſage, which communi-"cates with *The Cave of Poverty*.

At laſt deſiring me to direct my regard to the right ſide of the hill, he ſhowed me a country ſpacious and noble, but hilly, and difficult of acceſs. In it I ſaw fewer travellers than in the other, which I had juſt been viewing: yet they were more than at firſt appeared. At the farther end of it, on a beautiful eminence,

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I observed a Temple magnificent but unostentatious. "That country," said my Director, "is the Dominion of VIRTUE, "in which the inhabitants are inured to "labour, but reap the fruits of it in health "of body and tranquillity of mind. Those "asperities and precipices which you now "perceive, are chiefly in the entrance. "As you advance, it improves in smooth-"ness and delight. The Temple which "you descry is that of the GODDESS, "where she receives and rewards her "faithful votaries, who enjoy, beyond "the power of chance and sorrow, what "you are in pursuit of, HAPPINESS." "Oh blessed votaries!" cried I, with sudden rapture; "oh glorious Temple! "thither let us bend our steps: I long to "join that high assembly: let us set out "immediately." My Guide approved of my ardour; but, to prevent it from running into presumption, again foretold me I should meet with considerable difficulties in the road, on which I was about

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to enter; and then, taking me by the hand, led me down the hill, ruminating on all I had just heard and seen.

We no sooner arrived at the foot of it, than I began to find the truth of his predictions; for we came to a road entangled with thickets, beset with thorns, perplexed, abrupt, and craggy. By these inconveniences, though I had been sufficiently forewarned of them, I was not a little discouraged; so that, from a hasty impatience to be at the end of so disagreeable a journey, I hurried on before my Protector: but the faster I went, the more was I bewildered. The path indeed was so narrow, and my disposition so heedless, that I easily deviated into by-roads; an error to which I was additionally tempted on the approach of some persons of grave appearance, who told me they were going the same way, and were devoted to the goddess to whose Temple I was travelling.

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The first I met wore a plain garb thrown carelessly about him, had a blunt manner, and a demure aspect somewhat inclining to the sullen, inveighed strongly against the manners of the country from which I came, spoke of the folly and knavery of mortals with much acrimony, and observed that many were professed, but few or none real friends to VIRTUE. He called himself *Honesty*, and bad me follow him, offering to conduct me the shortest way to her Temple. Impatient to reach it, and forgetting, in my haste, the wise and friendly Conductor, to whom I owed so much attention, I was weak enough to accept the offer of this pretender, but soon had reason to repent of my rashness; for, instead of extricating, he led me into a greater maze, and through worse thickets, than those I had already passed, where I was pierced and torn with the briars and brambles which grew on every side. This made me resolve to follow him no longer. His

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true name, I afterwards found, was *Cynical Sourneſs.*

On his leaving me, advanced another of a figure yet more homely. He was bare-footed, had a mortified viſage, with a matted beard which reached to his middle, and was clad in ſackcloth, girt round with a rope. In one hand he held a maple diſh, and in the other graſped a whip, with which he would now and then laſh himſelf by way of penance. The name he aſſumed was *Temperance*, though I underſtood afterwards that he was only *Monkiſh Auſterity.* His appearance was in many reſpects far enough from engaging; yet, as he profeſſed the utmoſt ſimplicity of diet and manners, put on a ſanctimonious look, and peremptorily aſſerted, that there was no other way to the Temple of VIRTUE but through his cell, I was, in the preſent diſorder of my thoughts, induced to follow him: but the road he led me was ſo ſtoney and

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rough, his discourse was so forbidding, and his deportment so fierce, that being greatly shocked I soon relinquished him.

The next who accosted me was a stately personage with a plausible countenance, and an air of grandeur, in which however appeared something starched and haughty. He gave me to know, that he was by profession a Philosopher; spoke much of his disinterested zeal, his unconfined benevolence, his inflexible probity, his perfect command over all his passions, his sovereign contempt both of pain and PLEASURE; and boldly affirmed, that none but he and his followers were acquainted with the road to the Temple of VIRTUE, that he was a bosom friend of the GODDESS, and commissioned by her to lead young travellers to her sacred abode. His name, he said, was *Stoicism*, though his enemies through spite often miscalled him *Pride*. Imposed upon by an appellation so celebrated, and such

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lofty pretenſions, I readily accepted his offer: but he conducted me ſometimes through quagmires, where I was in danger of ſticking faſt; ſometimes over precipices, where I dreaded being daſhed to pieces: and yet I could not diſcover that we gained any ground. At length, being diſheartened and faint with following a leader ſo headſtrong and dangerous, and ſick of making ſo many unpleaſant and unſucceſsful experiments, I determined to adhere more cloſely to my old Guide, who had all this while kept behind at ſome diſtance, but had never loſt ſight of me. I was indeed aſhamed to approach him: but ſeeing me now alone, and in confuſion, he came up, and, on my confeſſing with humiliation my ingratitude and temerity in leaving him, he generouſly forgave me.

We had not proceeded far together, when I was accoſted by ſome other perſons, who were not without their ſeveral

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allurements, who all wore the livery of VIRTUE, and all pretended to be of her family. My Protector however assured me, they were counterfeits. One of them endeavoured to pass for *Prudence*; but I found his proper name was *Cunning*, and that he was particularly to be known by his squint eyes, and short sight. Another called herself *Justice*; but I was informed *Severity* was her real name. A third gave herself out for *Good-nature*, but was in fact no other than *Weakness*. And one, properly called *Profusion*, took the name of *Liberality*.

My Guide, aware that, through my youth and inexperience, I might still be seduced by those or the like pretenders, conducted me through a lonely path, with which few were acquainted, to a green and mossy bower concealed from public view, at the entrance to which sat a reverend and elderly woman, of an appearance wonderfully sedate and recollected, who

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seemed to be the portress of this lowly dwelling. She knew my Instructor, and, smiling at sight of him, admitted us without speaking a word. He told me, she had been his nurse, and was styled *Solitude*. Upon entering we observed a very lovely figure reclining on a verdant couch, planted round with jessamine and honey-suckle, which filled the place with perfume. She had an incomparable clearness and ingenuity of aspect: her countenance was open as Heaven: her eyes were bright as the evening star, and withal so penetrating that nothing could escape her notice. Her person appeared as if formed by the *Graces*, with inimitable proportion and perfect elegance. She wore an azure-coloured robe, of such admirable texture, and at the same time so happily adjusted to her shape, as to display her charms in their full lustre. Her whole frame seemed to beam with glory. On beholding my Guide, her looks expressed a complacence

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that could be equalled only by her respect. Rising from her seat, and moving gently forward, she received us with a friendly joy. My venerable Companion, having informed her who I was, and whence I came, recommended me to her care, and told me I might safely travel onward to the Temple of VIRTUE under the direction of so sure a Conductress, who was her favourite daughter, and whose name was TRUTH. I bowed my head; he left us; and we set forward on our journey.

Now and then certain phantoms, of an odd figure and fantastic dress, glided across our way. They would sometimes make up to me, and try by a variety of arts to entice me from TRUTH. These she informed me were partizans of PLEASURE, and sent by her to the frontiers of VIRTUE, on purpose to embarrass and decoy unguarded travellers. Some of their names, as I remember, were *Vain Glory*, *Popular Applause*, *False Shame*,

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Derision, *Detraction*, *Novelty*, *Fashion*. I felt some curiosity to enter into discourse with them: but my new Guide, holding up a mirror which she always carries about her, and which reflects the forms of things as they are, with it confronted the spectres; whereupon some of them disappeared, unable to sustain its splendour, and others (oh surprising effect of the mirror!) shrunk into the most diminutive and despicable figures that can be conceived.

As we travelled onward, having observed that TRUTH presented to me a crystalline cup full of a clear and sparkling fluid, I presumed to enquire what it was. It was, she informed me, a sovereign preparation, which, besides purifying the constitution in general, was particularly useful in clearing and strengthening the organs of vision. I had no sooner, by her advice, made trial of its efficacy, than, methought, a weakness and confusion in

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my eyes, of which I had for ſome time complained, was removed, and I diſcerned every object at a greater diſtance, and with more diſtinctneſs, than before.

My Benefactreſs deſired me to look back on the palace of PLEASURE, which lay in the valley below. But how was I ſurpriſed to find all its magnificence vaniſhed, and to ſee itſelf ſuſpended in the air, with a tremulous motion that ſeemed to announce its fall; and the adjacent fields, formerly ſo fruitful and well watered in appearance, withered at once into a frightful waſte! The boaſtful GODDESS was herſelf ſhriveled and transformed to a hag, ſitting in a darkſome corner, pale and trembling, accompanied only by a few of her doleful attendants and votaries, who appeared like ſo many furies reproaching her and one another, and tearing themſelves with anguiſh and remorſe. I turned away diſguſted at ſo loathſome a ſpectacle, and beſought my Guide to lead on.

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As we advanced, we were met by one of a youthful form, and of extraordinary vigour. His complexion was of that kind which is contracted by toil. He had a ſteady look, not without ſome mixture of ſternneſs, to which the reſt of his make correſponded, being rough and hardy. He graſped in his hand a club, and walked with uncommon compoſure, and firmneſs. "This youth," ſaid my Guardian, "is a near ally of my family, "whom CONTEMPLATION had by fair "*Liberty*. He is called *Reſolution*, and has "a temper compounded of the characters "of both parents; for in him the fire of "the mother is tempered by the coolneſs "of the father." His preſence gave me new ſpirit, ſo that I was diſpoſed to preſs on through the remaining difficulties of the way with an alacrity which I had not felt before.

I ſoon indeed found, that I ſhould want it all; for I obſerved at ſome diſtance a

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tremendous rock, which I understood I must necessarily climb. It grew not less formidable on a nearer approach; and proved, on my attempting it, so steep and slippery, that I fell back almost as fast as I ascended. There lodged too, as my Conductress informed me, in one of its cavities, a monstrous being, whom we must needs subdue before we could gain the summit. "But," said she, "be of good "chear, for Heaven will send to our relief "a mightier power." She had scarcely spoken, when out rushed a most hideous form, of whom the very sight chilled me with horrour. He had, indeed, the face of a man; but it was more fierce and terrible than that of a lion. His eyes darted fire. Out of his nostrils issued a baleful steam, that poisoned the air; and his roaring was like "the sound of many "waters." He was armed with scales almost impenetrable by human weapons, and instead of hands was furnished with

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claws which tore whatever came within their reach. His name was *Self Will*.

He was attended by a figure of a pale and sallow visage, whose eyes were sunk deep in their sockets, and rolled about with wildness and wrath. Her tresses flew loose upon her shoulders, and she had in all her looks and gestures an air of distraction. In one hand she carried a string of beads, which she seemed to tell with great earnestness; and in the other a bloody scourge. At the same time she muttered an unintelligible jargon. By her girdle hung a key, with which, I was afterwards told, she pretended to admit into, or shut out from, the Temple of VIRTUE, and the Abode of HAPPINESS. I perceived that she fondly cherished the monstrous shape. Her name was *Bigotry*.

At the discovery of this shocking pair I was seized with double terrour: but *Resolution* instantly attacked the mis-shapen

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power with his mighty weapon, calling to me in the mean time not to be afraid; yet I could not refrain from trembling for the event. My companion was indeed preſſed ſo hard by his antagoniſt, that he muſt ſoon have fallen a prey to his fury, had not our Protectreſs, who remained a while ſpectator of the unequal combat, brought to our aid a ſeaſonable reinforcement. Oh the Godlike power that interpoſed!

There was in her whole appearance ſomewhat more divinely attractive than aught I had ever beheld: her forehead was poliſhed like ivory, and radiant with ſplendour: her hair was like burniſhed gold: her eyes effuſed ineffable mildneſs, mingled with modeſt triumph: her regards were chiefly fixed on the ſkies, to which they were raiſed with ſuch ſublime devotion as ſeemed to lift the ſpirit of the beholder thither. Her garment, which hung freely from her ſhoulders, and reached down to her feet, was white as the driven ſnow: her motions were

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at once awful and serene. She looked like an inhabitant of the Empyrean, sent down for the relief of feeble mortals. At sight of her, *Bigotry*, unable to support so much effulgence, turned her back, slunk away, and was seen no more. The name of this sweetly majestic Power, my Preceptress informed me, was RELIGION. In her hand she supported a box of the purest frankincense. Having thrown part of it on a little altar that stood by, it raised at first a cloud of smoke, which possessed such peculiar influence, as to terrify, beyond any thing else in nature, the monster *Self Will*; so that he fled away in consternation, uttering such cries as appeared to rend the vault of Heaven. The smoke was succeeded by a celestial odour, which soon dispersed every noxious vapour, and filled the air with a fragrance inexpressibly reviving.

The alarm I suffered, and the splendour of RELIGION, had hitherto with-held my

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attention from three blooming figures that accompanied her. They were her daughters, *Faith*, *Humility*, and *Hope*. The head of the firſt was inveſted with a circle of rays, which threw a chearing light on all around her: her eyes were chiefly turned towards her parent, who viewed her with reciprocal and ſuperior ſatisfaction: ſhe carried before her a ſhield of divine workmanſhip, and ſeemed to lead the road to her ſiſters. *Humility*, cloathed in a veſture of ſober hue, which trailed on the ground, walked with a down-caſt look and ſlow ſtep: her whole demeanour was diffident and lowly. *Hope* had in her hand an opening bud, freſh and fragrant as the morning roſe: ſhe heedfully marked the motions of her eldeſt ſiſter, and wore in her countenance a pleaſant tranquillity, which ſeemed a mixture of ſerioufneſs and chearfulneſs, bordering upon rapture.

As we proceeded we were joined by another companion, one of RELIGION's

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family, who I was informed would help me to surmount the remaining hardships of the way. He was an elderly personage, but appeared still fresh and vigorous: he was clad in a russet cloak, wore an air of meekness and contentment, and held in his hand a staff on which he sometimes leaned: he was provided with a box of ointment for dressing the wounds, and anointing the feet, of those travellers who had been hurt by the asperities of the road. His name, my Instructress told me, was *Patience*. This exhilarating power going before lent me his hand, and by his assistance I with ease reached the top of the rock. I perceived indeed, after he joined us, that the path became more practicable and pleasing. We still ascended; but the ascent diminished: and among so many desirable and animating companions, I soon forgot my weariness. The sun, till now concealed in clouds, broke forth with new lustre, and illumined the fairest country he had ever beheld in his mighty circuit. Beauteous prospects

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opened on all ſides. To the thorny wilds, and frightful precipices, we had paſſed, ſucceeded green meadows, and flowery lawns, and ſtreams of living water.

The Temple, in full ſight of which we were now arrived, ſtood on the point of the eminence. My Guide, perceiving me raviſhed with the view of its ſituation and ſtructure, ſaid, "That, my ſon, is "the Temple of VIRTUE, and the Abode "of HAPPINESS. From thence the mon-"ſtrous form, who ſo lately affrighted "you, and his gloomy partner, are for-"ever excluded. *Spleen* never ſpreads "her ſable wings there. To that bliſsful "place *Corroding Cares*, and *Fearful Fore-*"*bodings*, with thoſe infernal furies, bitter "*Strife*, blind *Rage*, brutal *Revenge*, *Jea-*"*louſy* of jaundiced eye, fell *Hate*, pining "*Envy*, devouring *Appetite*, and pale *Re-*"*morſe*, muſt never approach. Neither "the indolent nor the buſy adherents of "PLEASURE can breathe ſo pure an air. "Her joyful dependants, who are ſettled

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" inhabitants, paſs the hours in a per-
" petual round of exerciſe without toil,
" and of entertainment without ſatiety;
" divided into different feſtal bands mu-
" tually loving and beloved, improving
" and improved, without other conten-
" tion, ſave who ſhall pay the higheſt
" homage, and render the moſt acceptable
" ſervice, to their common Sovereign,
" who is ever ſure to beſtow her nobleſt
" boons on the moſt active and de-
" ſerving."

Mean while we drew near to the ſacred manſion, which was built of a tranſparent ſtone that admitted light from every quarter: it was of a quadrangular form, and crowned with a magnificent dome: its portal reſted on a double row of pillars of the Doric order. At the entry were placed two guards, who carried in their looks ſomething ſo ſevere, that many travellers recoiled at the ſight of them: their names were *Temperance* and *Fortitude*. Though their firſt appearance was not in-

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viting, it ſoftened as ſoon as they obſerved our company. The gates ſtood wide open, in which ſituation I was told they always remain. Aſcending by eaſy ſteps, we entered. I was tranſported with the beauty and nobleneſs of the place: the height and circumference of the dome filled and ſatisfied the eye: the taſte of the whole fabric was ſimple and ſolemn. There was no need of adventitious decorations, and there were none.

At the upper end of the Temple, on a Throne of ſtate, appeared the GODDESS: but how ſhall I deſcribe her ſuperior form? Her complexion was clear, healthful, and animated with a native glow more perfect than art can confer. Her features were regular, raiſed, and graceful, but not without a maſculine air. Her eyes were blue, beautiful, and piercing as light. In all her mien there was diſcoverable a happy mixture of the modeſt and the great. Not a ſingle ornament about her perſon, but what was decent and natural.

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Her hair flowed down her neck in artleſs ringlets. A ſprig of laurel was wreathed round her temples. She wore a robe of the pureſt purple, that was girt with a zone about her waiſt, from which it fell in ample and eaſy folds. She held in her hand an Imperial Sword, the emblem of Power and Authority. Before the Throne, which was of alabaſter, were placed various enſigns of Dominion, a globe, crowns, ſcepters, batons, faſces, tables of laws, ſuits of armour, inſtruments of war, trophies, and the ſeveral ſymbols of the Finer Arts.

The preſence of the GODDESS overwhelmed me with veneration and extacy. I ſtood for ſome time immoveable, as if abſorbed in ſublime ideas. When I was a little recovered from a ſtate which mortality cannot long ſupport, my Proteſtreſs, pointing to the Throne, ſaid, "There ſits the Divinity of the place, "the daughter of thoſe immortal Powers,

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" *Wiſdom* and *Love*. She was brought " forth at a birth with HAPPINESS, her " ſiſter, and her companion; and ſent " down from above as the beſt friend " of men, and the ſureſt directreſs of life; " the guardian of youth, the glory of " manhood, and the comforter of old age. " By her inſtructions and laws, human " ſociety is formed and maintained; and " human nature, by converſe with her, " becomes Godlike."

My Conductreſs then called off my view to the numerous attendants of VIRTUE. On either ſide of the Throne, as its ſupporters, ſtood two illuſtrious perſonages, whoſe names were *Prudence* and *Juſtice*, with their well-known ſymbols. The votaries, as they approached, were introduced to the Preſence by a young virgin of the moſt lovely appearance, who could not perform her taſk without bluſhing. Her name was *Modeſty*. On the right hand of the GODDESS ſtood *Domeſtic*

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Tenderneſs, *Chaſtity* with a veil, meek-eyed *Charity*, ſacred *Friendſhip*, and *Heroic Indignation* of a ſtern aſpect and awful mien, graſping the Imperial Sword which VIRTUE reached out to him, and leading up *Public Zeal*, *Magnanimity*, and *Honour*, perſons of a fearleſs countenance and noble deportment, with ſeveral more whoſe names I do not now recollect. On her left hand were placed, among others, *Honeſty* in her tranſparent veſt; *Sincerity*, of an ingenuous face; *Reſignation*, leaning on a column, and looking to Heaven; *Clemency*, holding an olive branch; and *Hoſpitality*, of a liberal and open manner, joining hands with *Politeneſs*. Behind the Throne might be ſeen unruffled *Serenity*; ſmiling *Chearfulneſs*; ever-blooming *Joy*, with a garland of flowers in her hand; and the *Graces* encircled in each other's arms. There too ſtood ranged *Induſtry* of a hale and active appearance, and *Peace* crowned with laurel, ſupporting a cornucopia between them; *Credit* linked hand

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in hand with *Commerce*; and both introduced by *Civil Liberty* with her proper types. In VIRTUE's train, I likewiſe beheld *Rhetoric*, of a bold enthuſiaſtic air; *Poetry*, with her lyre and her look of rapture; *Philoſophy*, with her ſpeculum; *Hiſtory*, with her pen; *Sculpture*, *Painting*, and the reſt of the Sciences and Arts, diſtinguiſhed by their reſpective attributes. The preſence of the GODDESS ſeemed to inſpire the whole auguſt and amiable band, and added a freſh luſtre to their beauty.

The area of the Temple was filled with a glorious "multitude, which no man "could number," collected out of all tribes and nations, who lived in holy union, and converſed together with perfect eſteem and confidence. Stationed near the Throne, was a diſtinguiſhed company, on whom the GODDESS ſmiled with correſpondent ſatisfaction. My Guide informed me they were a ſet of illuſtrious Worthies, who had approved themſelves

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patterns of every excellence, the promoters of TRUTH, the defenders of *Liberty*, the benefactors of mankind, the very lights of the world.

This radiant aſſembly joined in offering up their ſeveral gifts, which were not ſo remarkable for their ſplendour and riches, as they were ennobled and conſecrated by the purity of the offerers. The minuteſt oblations were acceptable from a willing mind; and the undiſſembled homage of ſuch perſons as had nothing elſe to preſent, was received by the Divinity of the place with a countenance no leſs propitious, than ſhe vouchſafed to her moſt munificent worſhippers.

I had almoſt omitted to mention, that near the Throne ſtood a nymph of an alluring and enraptured aſpect, whoſe name was *Harmony*. She bore between her hands a golden harp, and ſeemed only to wait for a ſignal to ſtrike it. Silence being proclaimed through the Aſſembly,

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after they had paid their homage, the GODDESS beckoned to the graceful nymph; on which she kindled into higher transport, swept the well-tuned strings, and played such airs as soothed the hearers into attentive wonder, and celestial ravishment. "The harp of *Orpheus* was not more "charming."

When the music ceased, the happy multitude crouded round the Presence, and without strife or noise placed themselves in that situation, where they might best be seen by the observing Deity. Such as were but just arrived, and had not yet been honoured with an audience, now approached the Throne, led up by *Modesty*. The GODDESS commanded her *Recorder*, who sat on a bench below her, to read their respective stories. His eyes were piercing as the eagle's, when he gazes on the noon-day sun, and his voice solemn as that of distant thunders. His name was CONSCIENCE. Before him was spread

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an immenſe volume, in which were regiſtered the actions of men; as well the moſt diſguiſed and ſecret as the moſt open and avowed: nor did any ever contradict the teſtimony of CONSCIENCE, without being ſelf-condemned.

The firſt perſon whom the baſhful uſher introduced was a comely Old woman of an appearance ſingularly decent. Purity and ſweetneſs were ſo tempered in her, as to create at once reſpect and confidence, while they beamed out in an eminent degree through all her looks and demeanour. When preſented to the GODDESS, the paleneſs of age could not conceal a candid bluſh, which over-ſpread her cheeks, as the *Recorder* read aloud the following encomium: That her earlieſt youth was diſtinguiſhed by an affectionate piety to GOD, and to her parents, accompanied with a ſobriety of mind, and ſedateneſs of manners, uncommon at that period of life: That, being married very

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young to an elderly gentleman of good fortune and great worth, but of a temper something warm, she had improved his circumstances by her prudent management, and calmed his passions by a superior mildness and marvellous discretion: That she had brought up a numerous family with the most tender care, and studied by her instructions and example to inspire them with an early attachment to RELIGION and VIRTUE: That, by a winning conversation, and well-conducted indulgence, she had engaged them to love her as their friend, no less than to reverence her as their parent: That after her husband's death, which happened when far the greater part of them were young, she had watched over their interests with unwearied attention, given them one after another a liberal education, and settled them in useful and honourable stations: That such of them as were now at a distance from her, she continued regularly to counsel, and to confirm in the principles

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of their education, by an epistolary correspondence, in which she wrote her beautiful feelings with a simplicity and a dignity seldom equalled: In fine, that she was venerated by her servants, beloved by her friends, blessed by the poor to whom she was indeed a mother, and applauded, without one dissenting voice, by all that knew her unaffected goodness.

On hearing this ample attestation, VIRTUE beheld her with particular regard, and said, "Most honoured woman! thou hast "been happy in thy parents, in thy husband, in thy family; and happy shalt "thou long continue in the consciousness "of a life spent like thine, and in the "highest pleasure that can reach a parent's soul, that of seeing her offspring "prosperous and esteemed. Having reaped this natural recompence in the "present world, thy labour of love shall "not be forgotten in the future, to which "thou shalt be gathered in a good old age,

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" full of conſolation, and ripe for immor-
" tality."

Having ſaid this, ſhe ordered *Peace*, *Prudence*, *Charity*, *Conjugal Love*, and *Domeſtic Tenderneſs*, to weave a garland of myrtle and olive, and crown her with it, in the preſence of her female miniſters; and then commanded them to conduct her into the Abode of HAPPINESS, who dwelt in apartments under the ſame roof with the Temple.

The next that appeared was a Young woman, in the bloom of youth and beauty. She was clad in mourning: there was ſomething in her attire unadorned and careleſs, to which a languiſhing and down-caſt air, that appeared about her, admirably correſponded. Her eyes were fixed on the ground, whilſt the *Recorder* gave her this remarkable teſtimony: That having a very aged and moſt deſerving parent, with two young brothers, left to her

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charge by the death of her mother, ſhe had by her conſtant care and vigilance cheriſhed the former and educated the latter, and by many works of ingenuity procured a tolerable ſubſiſtence for both: That, to perform this laborious taſk more completely, ſhe had declined the moſt tempting offers of marriage for herſelf; being reſolved never to transfer upon a huſband the burden which Providence had laid upon her: That having at laſt cloſed her father's eyes, and ſeen her brothers happily provided for by a public foundation, the managers of which had been made acquainted with her meritorious behaviour, it was now her chief employment to excite in them an ambition of imitating their parent's excellence, ſo as to embalm and preſerve his memory in the honourable reputation of his children.

Such uncommon ſelf-denial and filial piety, in a perſon ſo young and ſo handſome, drew upon her the admiring eyes

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of the whole Assembly; which producing a virtuous confusion, heightened her native attractions. The GODDESS looked upon her with tenderness, and said, "Lovely daughter! thy gentle "qualities and generous exertions shall "gain thee fairer honours, than the "more splendid atchievements of those "who have been accounted heroines; "and thy name shall be held up to future "ages, as a pattern of duty and affec-"tion. Thy children (for thou shalt "yet bring a beautiful offspring to a man "of worth) shall repay thee tenfold, "and copy with success those perfec-"tions which thou hast so usefully and "amiably displayed."

VIRTUE then presented her with a mystic girdle, which was woven by the *Graces*, and endowed with such efficacy as to confer upon the wearer the power of charming every beholder. She received it blushing, and withdrew.

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After her, was introduced a man about middle age. There was, in his eyes, a fire that indicated paſſions naturally ſtrong; yet he approached the Throne with a look of diffidence and concern. The *Recorder* repreſented, That this votary was formerly proud and overbearing, prone to voluptuouſneſs, and impetuous in his ſchemes to gratify it: That his wealth and rank, together with an early indulgence of thoſe propenſities, had contributed not a little to augment their violence: That conceiving a fondneſs for a young lady of diſtinguiſhed birth and beauty, joined to many eſtimable qualities, but whoſe fortune was ruined by a train of unpropitious events, he hoped her ſituation might make her an eaſy prey to his deſigns, as he could not be confined by marriage, and had always entertained that groſs opinion of women in general which is common among looſe men: That, after employing every ſeducing art, he found her equally unmoved by allurements

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and by terrours: That being at length, by the inviolable ſanctity of her manners, ſubdued into juſt admiration and virtuous love, he deſiſted from his infamous attempts, and, after convincing her with ſome difficulty of his ſincere repentance, raiſed her from indigence and obſcurity to a ſtation of affluence and honour, in which her hitherto concealed accompliſhments broke forth with ſplendour: That her incomparable deportment ſo ſoftened and moulded his temper, as entirely to reform it, and render him unaſſuming, mild, and moderate, a friend of VIRTUE, and a guardian of the ſex.

He was deſired to bring forward his benefactreſs. With ardent haſte he ſingled from the throng the loveliеſt creature the ſun ever ſhone upon, who, thus unexpectedly preſented to public view, appeared with additional luſtre from the reddenings of conſcious worth, that glowed in her countenance. On which, eagerly preſſing

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her hand, he said, "This, awful GODDESS! this is the matchless woman "who converted me to reason and humanity. I have done nothing to merit "your notice: only bestow upon my beloved companion some recompence pro"portioned to her deserts." He turned to her with unutterable admiration. Her regards were fixed upon the ground; and she observed a modest silence, more expressive than the liveliest eloquence.

VIRTUE from her throne surveyed them both with singular satisfaction, and ordered *Hymen* to bring forth from her treasury two garlands of ivy, which she herself wreathed about their heads, while she thus addressed them. "Blessed pair! I crown "you with these as memorials of my "complacence, and of the conquests that "each of you has gained. Remain eter"nal monuments of the joys that spring "from a chaste and rational affection; "and witness to a degenerate age, how

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" far theſe endearments of the heart ſur-
" paſs the warmeſt tranſports of lawleſs
" paſſion."

She then commanded *Chaſtity*, *Meekneſs*, *Fidelity*, and *Chearfulneſs*, in company with the *Graces*, to conduct them into the hymeneal chamber near the altar.

Next in order came a grave matron-like lady on the decline of life: but no wrinkles had yet deformed her face; and by many agreeable traces, which ſhe ſtill retained, I could perceive ſhe had once ſtood in the foremoſt rank of beauty. Her looks beſpoke a mixture of ſentiment and ſimplicity; and her air was of that kind which is at once elevated and engaging. It appeared, That having been heireſs to an ample fortune, and poſſeſſed of many advantages both of mind and perſon, ſhe had nevertheleſs maintained ſuch a moderation of ſpirit as gave real dignity to the firſt, and added new allurement to the

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latter: That, though her train was soon swelled with a croud of admirers, some of whom were of the first distinction, and addressed her in due form, she had never been vain of past, nor ambitious of future conquests: That she had made use of her affluence, and other advantages, only to relieve the poor, to patronize the deserving, and protect the modest against "the oppressor's wrongs, the proud man's "contumely, and the insolence of office:" That having rejected the baits of grandeur offered her by her interested suitors, who considered marriage merely as a bargain, and those of gallantry presented her by gay ones, who regarded it as the last refuge of a ruined estate; she had made choice of a plain man, without rank, youth, or beauty, and of a very moderate income, but of admirable sense and uncommon worth; with whom she removed into the country, preferring his company, and that of a few select friends, amidst the still delights of retirement, to

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the tumultuous diversions of the town, and the tiresome parade of a court.

The GODDESS, with an aspect of high approbation, thus confirmed so honourable a testimony: "Exalted creature! I "have long beheld with more than ordi- "nary esteem thy discreet reserve, thy "equanimity, and generous use of "power and opulence. These have found "their just reward in one of the best "men. Be thou a lasting model to thy "sex, of unambitious, but noble con- "duct; teach them to sacrifice the "transient glare of wealth, and hollow "pageantry of greatness, to the solid "and unfading sweets of friendship, "freedom, and self-enjoyment."

Then VIRTUE taking from her own hand a ring of inestimable value, on which were cyphered the names of *Wisdom* and *Love*, put it upon the finger of the votaress. She was afterwards conducted, by three

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attendants of the goddess, *Generosity*, *Decency*, and *Joy*, to her husband, who, from a corner of the Temple, had witnessed with rapture the honours paid to the admired author and partner of his happiness.

The succeeding votary appeared to be a man past the boisterous season of youth, but not yet fully arrived at his prime. He had a masculine and animated look, mixed with something thoughtful; which seemed to intimate, that he had endured considerable hardships, but spoke at the same time a mind unbroken and superior. Of him it was recorded, That, though born to a plentiful estate, he had found it much impaired by the extravagance of his father, and the injustice of his guardians: That the remainder he had employed in giving himself a liberal education: That he had wisely appeased, or resolutely supported, some strong animosities which he had incurred

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without deſerving them: That he had with invincible temper ſuſtained the aſſaults of calumny: That having at laſt, with ſagacity and ſpirit, extricated himſelf from a train of difficulties; and having by unwearied application acquired an opulent fortune; while by perſevering probity joined to fine parts he converted cenſure into applauſe, he betrayed no elation of mind, but continued uncorrupted by proſperity, as he had been unconquered by affliction: That he had availed himſelf of his new-acquired riches, in ſupplying the wants of thoſe very relations who had uſed him worſt, in maintaining ſome of them who were diſabled by age or infirmities, and ſettling others in the world: That his hand was ever open to indigent merit, his houſe a ſanctuary to injured innocence, his advice and aſſiſtance free to all, and his company courted equally by the old and the young, of whom he was particularly ſolicitous to inſpire the laſt with a ſenſe of *Honour* and the love of VIRTUE.

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The GODDESS, delighted with this relation of so extraordinary a personage, commanded two of her attendants, *Magnanimity* and *Liberality*, to crown him with a wreath of laurel, as if he had been a conqueror just returned from the field of battle. Then, with a voice melodious as the songs of Elysium, she thus addressed him: "Shine on, thou generous youth! shine "on invariably, with the splendour of "a superlative humanity. Instruct mankind by thy persuasive conversation; "charm them with thy great example: "make the unthinking, the vicious, "and the vain, ashamed: teach even "the most savage minds to revere that "exalted form of goodness which they "can never rise to imitate."

Struck with this solemn attestation of VIRTUE herself, the hero, with an amiable bashfulness, retired behind the Throne, and disappeared amongst the admiring croud.

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The next votarist introduced was a person far advanced in years, whose reverend visage betokened a certain sacred simplicity of character. His demeanour was perfectly plain, and his appearance altogether primitive and artless. He approached the Throne slowly. On his right hand stepped RELIGION; on his left, *Philosophy*: *Humility* walked behind him. Of him it was told, that he was one of VIRTUE's priests, who had served at her altar with a zeal as pure as the fire which burnt upon it, and withal as mild as the oil which fed the holy flame: Every hour that could be spared from an immediate attendance on his function, he had employed in exercises of a rational piety, or in offices of an unlimited benevolence, or in studies devoted to the purposes of both: Having received from Nature a marvellous perspicacity in experimental researches, he had, with a diligence and success till then unknown, applied it to penetrate her works: He explored ac-

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cordingly many of her ſecrets, eſpecially thoſe relating to the vegetable and animal machinery: By drawing aſide the veil which had hitherto enveloped them, he diſcloſed ſuch miracles of power, intelligence, and goodneſs, as ſtruck each attentive ſpectator into devout aſtoniſhment: By theſe diſcoveries, he had not only advanced the glory of the great Artificer; he had contributed to the benefit of man, in pointing out their important uſes, for the preſervation, comfort, or improvement of life. He had ſubdued the very elements to the ſervice of his ſpecies, even there where they had been moſt refractory and noxious: The air and water he had purified and ſweetened by thoſe admirable arts for which multitudes of human beings in every age would "riſe up and call him bleſſed." He had in ſome ſenſe reſtored breath to thouſands of his fellow creatures: The fame of his incomparable ingenuity and worth, having induced an

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illuſtrious perſonage to force him by a ſort of friendly violence to the court, he had remained, amidſt the glitter of a palace, the ſame contemplative and elevated ſpirit that he had ever been found in the ſhade of retirement; retreating thither, as often as he could; and when he could not, walking through the circles of grandeur and gaiety with an undeſigning heart and unaffected manners; breathing an air of ſanctity like the inhabitant of ſome ſuperior region, and, as by beams brought down from above, kindling in thoſe about him the love of RELIGION, *Temperance*, and *Wiſdom*.

VIRTUE ſmiled upon the ſaint with affection and delight, which, when the *Recorder* had ended, ſhe thus expreſſed: "Happy old man! let me, in the "preſence of this Aſſembly, congra-"tulate thee on thy ſingular felicity. "Happy in thy genius, in thy diſpoſition,

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" and in thy royal Miſtreſs! Thrice
" happy in the power of diffuſing health
" and refreſhment through the abodes
" of ſickneſs and dejection, in the praiſe
" of ſaving the lives of millions yet
" unborn, in the glorious privilege of
" leading immortal minds to adore, with
" an enlightened devotion, the Author
" of this univerſe! Let the joyful recol-
" lection ſupport thy drooping age;
" let the honours paid thee by the beſt
" and greateſt of mankind exhilarate
" thy ſpirits; and let thoſe pleaſures
" of divine philoſophy, which thou art
" ſo eminently qualified to reliſh, anti-
" cipate the tranſport thou ſhalt ſhortly
" derive from the ever-new diſcoveries,
" and the ever-riſing contemplations, of
" eternity."

The GODDESS then ordered *Sculpture* to erect for the admirable man a ſtatue of the fineſt marble, with the figure of a Ventilator on the pedeſtal; and this

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this inſcription, TO THE GOOD DOCTOR WALLS, SECRETARY OF NATURE.

After him came forward another votary, paſt the prime of life. His eagle look gave indications of a daring ſpirit, and a commanding genius, formed for planning the grandeſt ſchemes, and ſuſtaining the moſt arduous ſtruggles. The reſult was a certain air of juſt and noble authority, that ſeemed capable alike of impreſſing awe upon ſubordinate minds, and ſtriking diſhoneſt hearts with terrour. He approached the Throne with a dignified port, holding in his hand an expanded volume. He eyed it and the GODDESS by turns, while this extraordinary account of him was read aloud: That, inflamed with a fervent love of *Liberty*, and penetrated with ſolicitude for his Country, he had early devoted himſelf to their intereſts: That the ſeaſon of youth, ſo frequently diſgraced

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by debauchery or loſt in trifles, he had diligently employed in the ſtudy of hiſtory, politics, oratory, and polite letters, with a view to prepare him for the part he might afterwards fill in the councils of the nation; That, being ſoon called to this high truſt by the unbought election of his countrymen, he approved himſelf an intrepid patriot, as well as a profound ſtateſman, and a ſpeaker of irreſiſtible energy; neither cringing to the haughty pageants of power, nor couting the favour of the giddy populace: That ſcorning a bribe himſelf, by whatever name diſguiſed, he had conſtantly inveighed, with a conſcious boldneſs which dreaded no repriſals, againſt the venal herd of every claſs, but chiefly againſt thoſe pretenders to patriotiſm who, after decrying venality in others, had themſelves bartered independence, freedom, and fair renown, for filthy lucre, or ſome tinſel ornament of dear-bought

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greatneſs:* That the reputation he had gained for inflexible integrity, and tranſcendent abilities, having raiſed him to the moſt beneficial department in the adminiſtration, he had, by his unequalled moderation, generouſly renouncing large emoluments which he might have received without reproach, diſplayed a glorious ſuperiority to wealth: That, as he had diſcharged the important duties of the place, with an attention which none ever queſtioned; ſo he had proved that he accepted it on conditions which none could condemn, by quitting it with dignity, when he might not hold it with honour: That whilſt he yet held it, he ſcrupled not to level the thunders of his more than modern eloquence againſt thoſe unhappy meaſures, and that unbounded prodigality of public treaſure, by which

* The lovers of Virtue and Patriotiſm, who may chance to look at this character, will regret that aught ſhould have happened to render it leſs like the original than it appeared many years ago, when the Dream was firſt publiſhed.

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he foreſaw its wicked or infatuated managers would expoſe their country to diſgrace and ruin: That he had often propoſed and warmly pleaded in behalf of ſalutary laws, and wiſe regulations, for ſtopping the progreſs of *Corruption*, for purifying the Britiſh conſtitution, and for ſecuring the independency of parliament: That this courſe of ſervice had been a courſe of ſuffering; he, like all the greateſt men who had gone before him in the ſame illuſtrious track, having been hated and perſecuted by the corrupters and the corrupted, reproached by thoſe he could not reclaim, relinquiſhed by thoſe he could not promote, and his contempt of riches repreſented as artifice, or ridiculed as quixotiſm: That nevertheleſs, unterrified, and undiverted from the purpoſe of his ſoul, he had continued a courageous champion for *Liberty*, and a zealous votary of VIRTUE.

This high encomium being ended, the GODDESS deſired him to make known his

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requeſt before the whole aſſembly; on which he thus addreſſed her: "Great "Sovereign! Weakened by diſeaſe, and "worn with fatigue, I come to aſk an "abatement of my toils, hitherto, alas! "but little efficacious; and permiſſion "to reſign into your hands this volume "of laws, which the profligacy of the "times would not receive; ſince you "alone can accompliſh, what your few "friends have attempted without ſucceſs. "Send forth through the land your "powerful influence, to reſtore the ſoul "of ancient freedom, to rectify the taſte "and elevate the ſentiments of a ſinking "age, and tranſfuſe through every rank "a predominant regard for TRUTH, "RELIGION, and the Commonweal. "Support, mighty GODDESS, the ma-"jeſty of the laws, the glory of the "King, and the reputation of Britain: "animate her ſons with Roman cour-"age to defend their country; poſſeſs "them with a holy zeal to aſſert thy

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"cause, and reinstate thee in thy primeval splendour: extinguish in their breasts the enfeebling love of PLEASURE, thy ignoble rival: fire them with a just disdain of *Avarice* and *Mean Submission*: teach them to despise the cowardice of doing wrong, to spurn the hire of oppression, and to abhor the wages of iniquity. Let the Muses, and all the Liberal Arts, be made subservient to morality, and decency of manners: and, O thou guardian and friend of human kind! inspirit all in stations of authority to join their efforts in favour of their native land; till under thy direction the constitution be thoroughly refined, *Liberty* and power attain an equal poize, and Britain become, by wholesome discipline and prudent laws, incorruptible at home, as well as, by a bold exertion of her hidden strength, be restored to her former character abroad, and rendered once more the mistress of the

" ſeas, the envy of the nations, and the " dread of tyrants."

The GODDESS heard him with deep attention, and, with a look and accent expreſſive of peculiar ſatisfaction, replied, " Heroic man! Expect from Provi- " dence and me the rewards due to your " exalted merit. Know, in the mean " while, that your Country turns her im- " ploring eye on you, and aſks from your " interpoſition her long-wiſhed deliver- " ance and reſtoration. With you alone " ſhe is determined to entruſt her trea- " ſure; and ſhe calls on you to direct its " application, and ſave it from waſte " by diſmiſſing her fraudulent and her " uſeleſs ſervants, and introducing among " the reſt methods of frugality; to " promote the reformation of her ſons; " to repell the encroachments, and coun- " termine the policy, of her foreign " foes; to point her vengeance againſt " her boſom traitors, and ſupport under

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" the cares of government a brave and " honeſt Prince. It is an awful charge; " but ſhrink not from it. Take back " the ſacred volume. Your unabating " perſeverance ſhall be crowned with " never-fading honours, and, what you " will eſteem yet more deſirable, with " eminent ſucceſs. The cauſe you have " eſpouſed is immortal; it is the cauſe " of VIRTUE."

The GODDESS, then deſcending ſome ſteps from her Throne, preſented her hand to this ſingular perſonage, and commanded him to ſit down by her ſide: after which, having employed *Juſtice* to bring from her ſtores a golden ſignet with this inſcription, TO THE REAL PATRIOT, ſhe delivered it into his hands, that he might wear it ever after. At a retribution ſo righteous and uncommon the whole Temple reſounded with acclamations.

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Silence was again proclaimed, when another votary advanced, whose presence I could perceive to produce in the beholders a mixture of reverence and love. I was surprised at the freshness and beauty of his looks, when told of his declining age. I ascribed it in part to the temper of his mind, which I understood was the sweetest that could be conceived. Indeed his very countenance declared it; for That was lighted up by candour and benignity. The "meek and quiet spirit" of a little child discovered itself in every feature of this amiable man. At the same time there shone about him a sanctitude of air, which seemed to be the joint emanation of *Purity* and *Wisdom*. His person was tall and graceful. A robe of white lawn, that reached down to his feet, presented the emblem of *Peace* and *Innocence*. His gait was at once composed and courteous. We were informed that this was another of VIRTUE's priests, who made the fewest pretensions, but had the fairest

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title, to her favour. His bosom was touched by her gentleſt inſpirations; his life had been one entire offering to Her. He had never done an unjuſt action, never an unkind one. But a negative goodneſs could not content his generous ſoul: he aimed from the beginning at ſomething more divine; he aſpired to the ſublimity of Chriſtian perfection. Through the ſucceſſive degrees of his order, he aſcended by the ſtrength of merit ſolely, till by the continued and growing friendſhip of his ſovereign, reſponſive to the public voice, he arrived at the ſummit of faceridotal preferment in his country. There he ſat with the mild dignity of unpretending excellence; for, as he had attained this height without ambition, he poſſeſſed it without pride. He deemed it indeed, on account of the numerous and difficult duties it demanded, a painful preeminence, and only for the ſatisfaction of diſcharging them, deſirable. His large revenue, and

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larger power, he faithfully employed for the intereſts of VIRTUE and thoſe of her lovely attendant RELIGION, which he ſtill regarded as inſeparably conjoined; their common cauſe he had ever pleaded with an oratory which all admired, and few could equal. His auditors liſtened, with awful recollection, and caught the vital ſpirit that iſſued from his lips: they believed thoſe ſtrains in commendation of Holineſs to be genuine, which ſtreamed ſo naturally from a feeling and abundant heart. His elocution eaſy, yet ſtrong and beautiful, his manner ſimple, yet expreſſive and noble, rendered him a valuable model in the preaching art; an art which he never proſtituted to palliate the vices of the great, or humour the paſſions of the vulgar, to promote the deſigns of a party, or kindle the deſtructive flame of theological debate. No one ever knew better to reconcile *Politeneſs* with *Sincerity*, affability with grandeur, the warmeſt attachment to TRUTH with the

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juſteſt regard for *Toleration*. When the king and the nation were in danger, his magnanimous behaviour diſcovered that *Loyalty*, *Reſolution*, and *Public Zeal*, conſpired to animate his boſom: but *Peace* was his darling object, as became a ſervant of the PRINCE OF PEACE; and *Moderation* was his conſtant companion. Theſe placid diſpoſitions he had on every proper occaſion recommended to all; to thoſe eſpecially of his own profeſſion: the pooreſt and the loweſt of the latter he, though raiſed ſo far above them, never failed to regard as his brethren while their behaviour was becoming and modeſt; for indecency or petulance, in a preacher of *Humility* and Righteouſneſs, excited his particular abhorrence. He was a father to the church: the ſons of the clergy he cheriſhed as his ſons. But kindneſs in him was not circumſcribed to perſons of his own perſuaſion; its rays, like thoſe of the ſun, were expanded through the general orbit of humanity.

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His religious ſentiments might be ſaid to reſemble the ſame glorious luminary: they were all benign and bright, unconfined by local prejudices, and impartial as that eye of Nature. Good without oſtentation, and friendly without pretence, his promiſes were few, his ſervices many. He was beloved by worthy men of all denominations; he was revered even by the worthleſs, whom he compaſſionately admoniſhed, not reproached, unleſs they added malignity or inſolence to their other crimes; and then, in imitation of his divine Maſter, he treated them with a mixture of pity and indignation: he was hated by none but bigots, whom he forgave always, and ſerved when he could. A friend to the followers of VIRTUE, a benefactor to the children of miſery, his inexhauſtible benevolence, like ſome perennial ſpring, perpetually flowed to both; to thoſe moſt, who moſt deſerved and wanted it. Here the *Recorder* made a ſhort pauſe, looked at the venerable man,

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and then added with warmth, "I attest "DOCTOR HERRING to have been a "faithful minister of VIRTUE, and of "JESUS!"

The GODDESS smiled assent, and thus addressed him: "My friend and advo-"cate! I thank you for supporting my "cause so nobly. I am at a loss to "pronounce which has been most per-"suasive, your eloquence, or your ex-"ample. How happy for mankind, were "all of your order to imitate both! "Henceforth take your station at the "gate of my Temple, and conduct my "purer worshippers to the inmost sanc-"tuary, where PERFECTION and HAP-"PINESS sit enthroned, and are en-"circled in each other's arms for ever."

This said, she ordained him to be crowned with a golden mitre, on the fore part of which was a heart embossed with diamonds, whence proceeded a lambent flame, signifying in the symbolical lan-

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guage, 'That the Wearer was eminent 'for a ſoul conſecrated to *Purity* and '*Love*.'

This excellent man was ſucceeded by a Lady of ſuperior extraction and ſingular deſert. She was introduced by *Modeſty*, whoſe humble maxims ſhe had never tranſgreſſed. On her right hand walked the Muſe *Erato*, to denote her affectionate diſpoſition; and on her left, *Melpomene*, to mark her ſkill in muſic. Her train was ſupported by a youth whoſe name was *Good Humour*, and whoſe aſpect beſpoke a mind inſpirited by vivacity, and brightened into gladneſs. Her ſtature was not of that lofty kind, which is particularly adapted to command reſpect; but in her countenance graciouſneſs was ſeated, and her ſmiles were the genuine expreſſion of benevolence. She moved with a majeſty ſoftened by eaſe. Her appearance all together created in the beholders a pleaſing intereſt, which was

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heightened into admiration, when they heard her ſtory.

Born a Princeſs in a foreign court, not remarkable for its magnificence, ſhe had early enlivened it by her gaiety of heart, as ſhe always adorned it by the decency of her manners. Theſe, united with a conſiderable ſhare of elegant accompliſhments, and a peculiar benignity of nature, had held her up as an object worthy the regards of a Prince, whoſe youth and elevation, placed as he was at the head of a great people, and ſurrounded with all that could flatter his paſſions, had not power to ſeduce him from the deſire of attaching his heart to a votareſs of VIRTUE, and ſeeking his ſatisfaction in domeſtic joys. The report of her excellence, having reached his ear, had fixed his choice. Although, when ſhe was firſt ſeen by the nation upon whoſe protection ſhe had thrown herſelf, where imagination had expected to find her not leſs beautiful than

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worthy, their fond hopes ſeemed but little gratified in her perſonal figure, ſhe had yet, by a demeanour irreſiſtibly ſweet as well as uniformly prudent, gained every hour on the eſteem of all that approached her; till at laſt ſhe ſtole upon their hearts, and became the moſt univerſally beloved character in the kingdom: nor had her popularity been ever, in a long ſeries of years, forfeited with any party, ſhaken by any faction, or undermined by any political cabal. Thoſe, who differed from each other moſt widely on all other ſubjects, warmly agreed in admiring her gentle qualities and captivating deportment; which no height of ſtation, no blaze of ſplendour, and no breath of applauſe, had at any time been able to alter or abate.

In her family, ſhe had always ſhone with the ſame ſoft luſtre. By her chearful converſation, her ſpritely humour, her enchanting meekneſs, the never-

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ceaſing attentions of duty and obeiſance, and the unwearied exertions of maternal fondneſs, had invariably ſecured for her, in the boſom of her royal Partner, a throne ten thouſand fold more deſirable than any which *Ambition* can boaſt, while they ſerved to ſooth that boſom, amidſt the multiplied perplexities inſeparable from the government of a wide-extended and much-divided empire. Bleſſed with a numerous and flouriſhing offspring, this admirable woman, far from devolving them wholly on the care of ſtrangers, like many a faſhionable mother of greatly inferior condition, deemed it her glory to tend their health, to watch their ſafety, to ſtudy their opening minds, and by poſſeſſing them with a timely reverence for TRUTH, RELIGION, and VIRTUE, to prevent the contagion of a court, and lay the ſureſt baſis of every amiable and princely qualification, ſuch as might render them in future years the increaſing delight of their parents,

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the darlings of Britain, and the ornaments of humanity.

The uncommon complacence which this account produced in the GODDESS, her Attendants, and the whole Aſſembly, was ſtrongly apparent; it kindled every eye into rapture. "Thou beſt of "wives, of mothers, and of queens!" ſaid VIRTUE in the warmeſt accents of approbation, "thou bright model of "various excellence! how ſhall I aſſign "thee an adequate reward?" She pauſed, as if to conſider by what means ſhe might moſt ſignificantly manifeſt her favour. She looked round her, and proceeded, "My worſhippers and fol-"lowers will ſurely rejoice, on this bliſs-"ful occaſion, to contemplate the Pro-"geny of ſo beloved a lady; as her "conſcious ſoul muſt be raviſhed to "behold them the objects of univerſal "tenderneſs and joyful zeal." She then "ordered them to be uſhered in. The

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glorious multitude of ſpectators ſeemed all ſuſpended, and panting with curioſity; when no fewer than Ten alluring children, whoſe ages appeared to ſucceed each other in a regular gradation, entered the place according to their years, led on by *Innocence*, a youthful Power, in whoſe blooming looks Sweetneſs and Simplicity were ſeen to ſport, and who had conducted her ſmiling charge to the Temple, by a ſhort and flowery path unknown to older travellers. I remarked, indeed, that the youngeſt of them, being yet but a babe, was carried in the arms of *Hope*. *Wiſdom* followed them as their guard. But words would feebly ſpeak the generous tranſports, that glowed through the mighty throng, while ſo extraordinary a proceſſion was paſſing in review. As the amiable train moved along, nameleſs little *Loves*, beautiful as cherubim, hovered about them, ſtrewing their way with roſes and lilies. The penſive and awful viſage of their

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Guard expanded into a ſerene triumph. When they had meaſured the area of the Temple, ſhe ranged them on either hand of their enraptured parent, whoſe emotions at that moment can only be imagined. At that moment ſhe ſeemed to feel the endeavours of her life divinely recompenſed. But VIRTUE, willing to confer a permanent token of the kindneſs ſhe had long entertained for ſo diſtinguiſhed a votareſs, commanded *Fame* to produce a Medal of tranſcendent beauty, which *Sculpture* had ſome time before ſtruck by her order. It exhibited on one ſide a ſtriking reſemblance of that incomparable Princeſs, crowned with a wreath which was compoſed of the peaceful olive and the fruitful vine. Round the border was this inſcription, DELICIÆ POPULI. On the reverſe might be ſeen the figure of *Concord* preſenting the royal Iſſue to *The Genius of Britain*, who ſeated on a rock receives with tender exultation the future ſupporters of his empire, while

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rays of light fall upon them from above. Delivering it to the lady with a moſt gracious ſmile, the GODDESS thus addreſſed her: "Accept, my ſiſter and "my friend, for ſuch I eſteem thee, "accept this ſmall memorial of my "fervent attachment to thee, and to thy "family. Be aſſured I participate deeply "in their felicity and thine. It is the "juſt retribution of Heaven to merit "on thy part alike exalted and unaſ-"ſuming, and ſhall continue to follow "that connubial fidelity of which ſo "few royal Pairs have, in the long ſuc-"ceſſion of generations, been known to "furniſh an equal example." Deſcending from the Throne, and embracing her, ſhe added, "And now, my friend and my "ſiſter, take poſſeſſion of yonder ad-"joining Abode of HAPPINESS, which "opens to receive thee and thy children. "Thither let them attend thee. A love-"lier retinue thou canſt not have; and "another were ſuperfluous."

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As this illuſtrious Perſon, and her lovely offspring, paſſed ſlowly from the Preſence, the Nymph HARMONY, who with enthuſiaſtic ardour had witneſſed every part of the tranſaction, upon receiving a ſignal from the GODDESS, ſtruck her golden lyre with extacy; and ſung ſuch ſtrains in praiſe of Moderation, Meekneſs, Conjugal Duty, and Domeſtic Peace, as emulated the Muſic of the Spheres, and gave new ſublimity to the ſenſations of the liſtening and entranced Aſſembly.*

When the melody was cloſed, MODESTY, aſſuming a degree of confidence which ſhe had never before been obſerved to wear, introduced a man juſt entering on the verge of old age, whoſe face diſplayed that ſerious kind of charm which belongs to the bloom of ſuch a period. He preſerved ſtill unimpaired that vivid ſight, whereby he ſeemed ca-

* The effect upon the editor was ſo ſtrong as to awake him.

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pable of fathoming the hearts of men. At the ſame time his eyes ſhed ſuch ſoft effulgence, as indicated a ſpirit no leſs benign than penetrating. His port was noble, and every circumſtance of his carriage elevated, but without any thing imperious or haughty. All was the natural geſture of a ſuperior mind, unconſcious of its grandeur. He walked forward with meek majeſty. The moment he appeared, the attendants of VIRTUE, ſtruck as by ſome heavenly viſion, gazed on him with the enthuſiaſm of admiration. Afterwards turning to the GODDESS, they ſeemed to wait her motions, with earneſt but reſpectful ſuſpence. She made a ſign to a certain number of them; on which like lightening they darted from their places, and thronging round the votary accompanied him as he ſtood near the Throne. Their names were, *Equity*, *Mercy*, *Magnanimity*, *Temperance*, *Liberty*, *Rhetoric*, TRUTH, *Politeneſs*, *Pru-*

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dence, RELIGION, and *The Genius of Britain*. An attention ſtill as midnight prepared the Audience to hear the atteſtation of the *Recorder*. The *Recorder*, raiſing his arm, and aſſuming a tone more ſolemn than uſual, exclaimed with rapture, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the "upright; the boaſt of humanity, and "the favourite of GOD!" He then proceeded to give the following account of this wonderful Perſonage.

He was educated in a private ſtation, and ſuffered, on entering the world, ſuch hardſhips as, meeting with a fund of native goodneſs, confirmed him in his reverence for VIRTUE, and gave a finer edge to all his affections. By the ſole prevalence of tranſcendent probity, and equal talents, in every ſtage through which he paſſed, he was early advanced to the place of higheſt truſt and authority under his Sovereign. Far from elated, he was rather humbled by it, and rejoiced in his elevation only as it opened to him

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a wider prospect of the wants of mankind, and furnished him with a larger capacity to relieve them. Neither the corruptions of a court could infect, nor its sunshine dazzle him, inaccessible alike to *Luxury* and *Avarice*, as well as an implacable enemy to injustice and falsehood, by whomsoever practised. He listened to no persuasion but that of TRUTH and *Equity*, knew no interest but that of *Liberty* and VIRTUE, having never been a slave to his own passions, nor a tool to those of others. His tongue was a stranger to flattery; but no one ever contradicted more obligingly. He was perfectly well-bred, but incapable of a mean compliance; and he had no occasion for it. He was sure to please by the all-attractive power of a mild integrity. Though of no party, he had the testimony of every party; both friends and foes agreeing to proclaim his worth, if he indeed had any foes, who hated none but bad men, and who rather pitied than hated even these. When the duties

of his arduous province would permit him, no one better underſtood to put off the dreſs of greatneſs, and to enjoy the ſweets of elegant and learned tranquillity in a circle of kindred minds, with whom he mingled in the cloſeſt ſympathies of *Friendſhip*. How delightful was it to ſee him, on ſuch occaſions, alternately imparting and ſharing the ſoul of wit and hilarity, familiarizing *Philoſophy* to Mirth, and inſinuating the ſublimeſt leſſons, amidſt the ſimplicity and play of common converſation! His houſe was the dwelling place of Order, Contentment, and Affection. He was equally revered and confided in by his children, to whom (ſo reaſonable had he formed them!) he did not refuſe any thing they ever aſked him. He was adored by his ſervants, from the higheſt to the meaneſt. His cloſet was *Wiſdom*'s ſhrine. There, remote from the din of a diſtempered world, he converſed with his Creator, and himſelf, adored the divine adminiſtration, interceded for the

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human race, and, harmonizing with the ſupreme benevolence, deviſed plans of wide-extended uſefulneſs; for that was the ruling paſſion of his nature. His Prince, his Country, Society at large, theſe were the magnificent objects that occupied his time, and labours, and genius, and heart: for theſe he was willing to live; and for theſe too, if neceſſary, he would have dared to die. By fulfilling this noble deſtination, he believed the Univerſal Parent was ſerved moſt acceptably; and he was glorioufly fitted to fulfill it. A quick and comprehenſive underſtanding, invigorated by continual exerciſe, enlightened by various literature, and refined by the trueſt taſte; a temper all alive, yet calm, and patient as *Charity* herſelf, though exquiſitely ſenſible; an oratory intenſely glowing, yet always under entire command, and calculated to convince no leſs than move; a tender feeling of the rights of men; a deep inſight into the intereſts of Britain, and ſuch an

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intuition into the moſt intricate caſes, as almoſt approached to angelic intelligence; theſe extraordinary qualities conſpired in him to accompliſh the ſenator, the ſtateſman, the judge, the counſellor of royalty, the guardian of the people, the patron of merit and learning, the protector of perſecuted innocence, and the terrour of inſolent oppreſſion. To theſe generous cares he ſacrificed his eaſe, his ſleep, his health, his gain, his books, his company, nay and often the ſweeteſt charms of *Friendſhip*, ſerenity, and ſelf-enjoyment. To him his maſter, his fellow citizens, the worthy, the wretched, every where, fled as to their beſt reſource, next to Omnipotence. To him the meaneſt found ready acceſs. He was a Tutelar Deity on earth. In his preſence, the frowns of *Juſtice* were ſoftened into ſmiles, *Sorrow* was transformed into gladneſs, *Violence* ſtood daunted, *Fraud* forgot his ſnares; and the ſons of Belial, bluſhing, ſtole from under the ſhelter of the

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laws. "The young men saw him and "hid themselves; and the aged arose and "stood up. The nobles held their peace. "The princes laid their hand on their "mouth. When the ear heard him, "then it blessed him; and when the eye "saw him, it gave witness to him: "because he delivered the poor that "cried, and the fatherless, and him that "had none to help him. The blessing of "him that was ready to perish, came upon "him; and he caused the widow's heart "to sing for joy. He was eyes to the "blind, and feet was he to the lame. "He was a father to the poor; and the "cause which he knew not, he searched "out. He brake the jaws of the wicked, "and pluckt the spoil out of his teeth. "He put on righteousness, and it "clothed him. His judgment was as a "robe and a diadem."

The *Recorder* ceased. VIRTUE contemplated the illustrious man, with silent

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but ſovereign complacence. After a conſiderable pauſe, ſhe roſe from her ſeat and ſaid, "Hail, thou beſt and greateſt of "men! the glory of thy ſpecies! the "darling of Heaven and me, hail! I "chuſe thee for my delegate, to repre-"ſent henceforth my perſon to thy "mortal brethren. Bear witneſs, earth "and ſkies, that VIRTUE has inveſted "TALBOT with her faireſt honours!"

Having thus ſpoken, ſhe deſired him to aſcend the Throne, and take his place at her right hand. With modeſt reluctance he obeyed. She then adorned his head with a tiara of gold, which bore this remarkable inſcription, ΠΑΝΤΑ ΚΑΛΩΣ, importing that HE HAD PERFORMED HIS PART NOBLY. On which, methought, the whole aſſembly burſt into ſuch thunder of applauſe, as awaked me from my Dream into the ſober tenour of ordinary life.

THE END.

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THE

TEMPLE OF VIRTUE,

A

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